

DR. LIEBER'S REMARKS
ON THE FINAL ADJOURNMENT OF
THE LOYAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

15-4 Febr 1868

GENTLEMEN : I now rise to perform the grave duty of adjourning this Society *sine die*. I feel sad in doing it. Ties which have been formed in the sacred time of our perilous struggle are to be torn, and events have recently taken place which might induce us to believe that we are not to harvest the full fruits of our sacrifices. But let us not lose hope. God will not forsake our country nor the cause we have battled for ; and, while the precise conditions out of which our Society arose have ceased, and while it is meet that we should now close *this* patriotic Association, every one of us will continue, each in his own way, singly or associated anew with others, to work to the best of his ability for the great ends for which our nation has so nobly contended.

These ends, as the spirit of the contest developed itself clearer and clearer, were the extinction of slavery, and the overthrow of the false idol—State Sovereignty. The one, while degrading human beings—persons—to things, engendered in the owner that reckless and cruel pride which made even angels fall ; the other strives to demean the nation and all that is national, frightening the timid, or those that desire to be frightened, into “State Rights Doctrine,” by the spectre of Centralization—the bugbear of our history.

There are many roots of slavery left in the ground, though the main trunk has been cut down, and these roots must not be

allowed to shoot forth new sprouts. The roots themselves must be torn up—a work of the greater difficulty with us, because slavery attached itself in our country to a race. It extended, and still extends in many portions of the country, the degradation inherent in slavery to the color of the formerly enslaved people. A free negro stood always much nearer to the slave, legally and socially, than to the freemen of the dominant people. And as to state sovereignty, it is a provincial egotism, which all history shows is pleasing to most men of minor aspirations. The American problem is, to unite the highest degree of self-government, not only of the states, but of a thousand institutions, with the fullest nationality and the plainest and warmest patriotism—undivided devotion to the whole country. The national polity is the normal type of modern government.

Our Society has arduously worked for the promotion of these two objects, and those directly connected with them. When our last volume shall be published, it will be found that the three annual volumes of tracts, letters, and other publications, poetical and prose, statistical and reasoning, patriotic and historical, legal and constitutional—that these volumes now form a depository both instructive and interesting, and that its contents, when scattered by the hundred thousand, did good service in times of anxiety and glory, and that they contributed no inconsiderable share in bringing about one of the greatest national acts in all history—the re-election of Abraham Lincoln, soon after murdered for the very national grandeur of his re-election. We had to do with an enemy who, from the incipency of the contest, had familiarized himself with assassination, and who, throughout the war, treated murder as a thing coolly to be weighed and calculated in war, and as an expedient and not illegitimate means of warfare. I speak from facts and history.

You are all aware that frequent assurances have reached us from afar that your publications were wanted, and were doing good. Take the recollection of this fact along with

you through life, and, although the Society will presently be dissolved, never let the friendship die out which has grown up individually between us in the last three noble years. Events were crowded in this brief space of time, which scattered over many lustres would still signalize them in history. Above all, be ready to leap to the gun again when necessary, as you were ready to do this day three years ago, when we met, for the first time, at the house of one of our distinguished members.

God save our great Republic ! God protect our Country !

I now adjourn the Society *sine die*.

